

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND: Regime's Relations With the Church

Relations between Church and state remain stalemated despite efforts by leaders of the Church to promote a dialogue with the government.

A Church official recently told [REDACTED] that the regime shows no real readiness to compromise. He claimed that the bishops, despite differences over wording, were all satisfied with the recent Episcopate communique calling for an end to martial law and the release of internees.

The official interpreted recent attacks on the Church in government-controlled media and difficulties with local officials over the removal of crosses from public buildings as nuisances. He said that the Church is urging the regime to allow Catholic lay organizations to resume their activities.

In addition, the official reasserted the Church's position that any "realistic" plans for Poland's future had to include Solidarity. He revealed that a Church official had for the first time met recently with two of Lech Walesa's closest advisers.

Comment: The regime sees little reason to heed Church pressures to end martial law and probably hopes the Church will be placated by concessions that guarantee its own activities. Although Church leaders are trying to establish some basis for talks between Walesa and the government, they appear unwilling to try to turn their vast moral authority into more tangible forms of political power.

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